

*Protection of Privacy*

spoken, he has replaced the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Atkey) as the spokesman on this bill, and whether—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lang:**—in view of the Leader of the Opposition now departing from the expressed agreement of the hon. member for St. Paul's, that hon. member has resigned from the Conservative caucus?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** That's pretty weak, Otto.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, what sort of nonsense is this? I am speaking on this bill as the leader of my party.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fairweather:** He has more guts than you, Lang.

**Mr. Lang:** Well, you have a lot of something.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Yes, I have a lot of something.

**Mr. Lang:** Then, I am surprised.

**Mr. Fairweather:** You should be.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I think the highest duty to my party, to this parliament and to my country is to attempt to obtain a commitment from this, and I will leave out the adjective, government at this time that it will keep this bill before parliament.

**Mr. Fairweather:** That is the point.

**Mr. Stanfield:** When he gives me that commitment, I will tell him where we stand on his proposal.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** We will only agree to that compromise on the basis that it will, in fact, result in bringing this bill to a conclusion.

**Mr. Sharp:** Haven't you any principles?

**Mr. Stanfield:** Yes, I have principles and I stand for those principles. It is because I have principles that I insist on an undertaking from this government that it will keep this bill before the House until we have dealt with it. I suggest it is cynical and irresponsible to lump this bill into that forlorn category of leftover legislation scrambling for priority, especially after this House has already taken a position. There is no question as to what we prefer in principle. If he wants an accommodation, and wants us to indicate what our stand will be in that respect, let him give us the assurance that if we agree to that accommodation this government will see this bill through the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) has unfortunately seen fit to imply a certain position to me and to impugn my character and my honesty in my dealings with him. I should tell you and hon. members of this House that the

[Mr. Lang.]

minister, in my dealings with him, made certain representations on December 17 on the assumption that the government would proceed expeditiously to bring forward this legislation. Until 3.15 today there was no certainty that the government would proceed, and I think it is clear that any agreement made on December 17 has long since been breached by this government's inaction.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sharp:** Where is the principle?

**Mr. Atkey:** I should also point out that the Minister of Justice attributed to me the position of spokesman for the Conservative party on this issue. I was interested in that comment in light of the fact that the original wording of the so-called compromise was sent across the floor of the House to the justice critic for the Conservative party, the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather). The minister and his party know full well that he is the spokesman for this party on this issue. It was through the member for Fundy-Royal, in consultation with me and many other members on this side of the House, that negotiations were carried on. The minister knows that and he is quite wrong in imputing to me that particular position.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** That's a dirty trick.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** Back to law school for you, Otto.

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with some interest to the remarks of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) during his lecture to those of us on this side of the House.

**An hon. Member:** He has gone.

**Mr. Leggatt:** I am sorry that the minister is acting rather consistently during the course of this bill, and I note that he has just left the House. I hope he is not sulking. In any event, I will proceed in his absence as I do want to respond to those remarks. He lectured members on this side of the House as though they were school children. As long as we remain in our places, we will not get the strap and, who knows, we might even get the bill through. That is my summation of the minister's remarks. I suggest it is not worthy of the Minister of Justice to take that kind of a position in this House, not worthy at all.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Leggatt:** Mr. Speaker, if there is any question about this bill being killed and who may have killed it, I suggest it will be the Minister of Justice who must shoulder the responsibility.

**Some hon. Members:** Where is he?

**Mr. Leggatt:** I was delighted to hear the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) to the effect that members of his party are willing to sit in the House until this bill is passed by this House. I want to assure hon.